

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Mima Creek Pond Sculpting

2. Name of applicant: Marc Hayes, WDFW and Sanders Freed, The Nature Conservancy

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Marc Hayes, WDFW, 600 Capitol Way North, Mailstop 43143, Olympia, WA 98501-1091, (360) 902-2567

Sanders Freed, The Nature Conservancy, 120 E. Union AVE, Suite 215, Olympia, WA 98501, (360) 451-6696

4. Date checklist prepared: 7/26/2010

5. Agency requesting checklist: WDFW

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Low water 2010 - September

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Yes, exposed construction areas will be re-seeded or planted in native plantings according to NRCS planner and biologist recommendations (Attachment A; 4 March 2010 NRCS memorandum from Molly Smith to Erica Fifer).

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

NRCS evaluated the site to prepare its design summary report (Attachment B). The site has been the focused of biological surveys that are a joint effort of TNC and WDFW over two years, and surveys are continuing this year. Efforts of

these surveys are to understand the biological composition of the aquatic habitat and thoroughly evaluate the site as a recipient site for potential translocation of the state Endangered Oregon Spotted Frog.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No other applications are pending for other proposals affecting the property.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

A JARPA (completed 28 May 2010 and received by the WDFW Habitat Program 2 June 2010; Attachment C) has been completed with US Army and DOE approval and is awaiting HPA approval.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Two ponds will be excavated in the Mima Creek Preserve wetland onsite to enhance habitat for waterfowl and provide habitat for Oregon Spotted Frog. The ponds will total 5 acres and approximately 3,500 cubic yards of material will be removed for adjacent upland contouring based on NRCS construction drawings and specifications dated March 2010 (Attachment D).

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

10014 Gate RD SW, Olympia, WA 98512, SE20 16N 3W

A map of the location is provided in USDA-NRCS Attachment E.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

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B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): **Flat**, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
other

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? Very low gradient, <1%

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Hydric soils excluding prime farmland.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No surface indications of unstable soils or history of unstable soils exist.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

No material will be introduced to the site, all work will be conducted within the site.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Based on construction drawings and specifications (Attachment D) and the aforementioned site conditions, no erosion is anticipated.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

No part of this site will have impervious surfaces after project construction.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

None

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The excavator will emit exhaust during construction.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No offsite sources of emissions or odor will affect this proposal.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

None

3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

The work will occur along upland margin of the Mima Creek Preserve Wetland, a >10-ac wetland historically created when marginal aquatic habitat along the Black River was partitioned from the remaining aquatic habitat along the Black River by a railroad berm (now part of the County biking/walking trail system). This wetland retains a connection with the aquatic habitat along the Black River through a trestled gap in this berm. The Mima Creek Preserve Wetland is fed by Mima Creek and some small tributaries. The Mima Creek Preserve Wetland is perennial, though it exhibits seasonal fluctuations that increase its area following wet-season rains. Mima Creek is generally perennial, but the small tributaries vary from year-round to seasonal depending on the water year.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

The ponds will be sculpted within the wetland boundary (see attached site map [Attachment E] and construction drawings and specifications (Attachment D).

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

~3,484 cubic yards of material will be excavated from the wetland-upland interface and used to recontour uplands adjacent to the ponds based on the plan approved by NRCS (Attachment D – construction drawings and specifications).

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

The proposal will not require any surface water withdrawals or diversions. All work will be completed at low water.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

The proposal area lies within the 100-year floodplain (see attached site map [Attachment E])

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

This proposal will not involve discharge of waste materials into surface waters.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No ground water will be withdrawn and water will not be discharged into ground water.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals . . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

No waste material will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Largely self-contained, but a notch in each pond will allow runoff filling the pond to move into either the adjacent or the Mima Creek Preserve Wetland.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No waste materials will exist to enter ground or surface waters.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

No special measures are proposed to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts. As designed (see Attachment D – construction drawings and specifications), the project is not expected to result in such impacts.

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

_____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

_____ shrubs

 X grass

_____ pasture

_____ crop or grain

 X wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

 X other types of vegetation: invasive grasses

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Reed canarygrass and other exotic grasses (e.g., timothy)

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Based on surveys onsite and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (<http://plants.usda.gov/threat.html>) database, no threatened or endangered plants are known to be on or near the site.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Native wetland plantings will occur after project completion.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: ☒ hawk, ☒ heron, eagle, ☒ songbirds, ☐ other⇒: other birds observed are red-winged blackbird, various species of ducks, and bittern

mammals: ☒ deer, bear, elk, ☒ beaver, ☐ other⇒: other mammals observed are coyote

fish: bass, ☒ salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, ☐ other⇒: other fish observed are three-spined stickleback, Olympic mudminnow, and prickly sculpin

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Based on the WDFW PHS database, no federal or state threatened or endangered species are known to occur on or near the site.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Based on the WDFW PHS database, this site is not part of a migration route for tracked species. As a riparian area close to a major stream system, it serves as migration habitat for Nearctic migrant birds in the spring and fall.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

This project represents a habitat enhancement for the potential future translocation of the state Endangered and federal candidate Oregon Spotted Frog. The proposed connected pond development is anticipated to increase available habitat for the Olympic mudminnow, a species of special concern, and other marsh-associated species, including northern red-legged frogs and other stillwater amphibians (breeding habitat).

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

The completed project has no human-supplemented energy needs.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

If so, generally describe.

The project would not affect the potential use of solar energy on adjacent properties.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

At completion, the project will have no energy impacts, so measures to reduce or control energy impacts do not apply.

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Minor risk of leak of fluids from the excavator exist.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Based on the level of risk, no special emergency services are needed.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Checks will be done to ensure that the excavator is functioning properly.

- b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

The project is located in a rural setting, so existing background noise is limited to begin with. Moreover, the road next to the project area, which is the only source of human-contributed noise, has limited traffic.

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- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Excavator noise is the only significant noise anticipate to occur during construction.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

At no extraordinary noise impacts are anticipated, no special measures will be implemented to reduce or control noise. The excavator will have a standard muffler system to limit engine noise.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The site consists of retired farmland that was acquired for conservation use and efforts by The Nature Conservancy.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

The site was historically used for agriculture, as hayfields.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

An old barn exist on the property several hundred meters away from the site of the proposed project.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No structures will be demolished in the course of this project.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

R1/20 – Rural – 1 dwelling per 20 acres.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Residential Resource Protection.

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Natural Shoreline.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Yes, classification is "stream floodplain wetlands."

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

No one would reside or work in the completed project.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

No one would be displaced by the completed project.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable (see j above).

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

None

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable, this is not a housing project.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable, this is not a housing project.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable, this is not a housing project.

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10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Not applicable, this project does not involve the development of any structures.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Not applicable, this project does not involve the development of any structures.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Not applicable, this project is likely to improve aesthetics.

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

The proposed project will not significantly altered existing light conditions nor will it produce glare.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not applicable, see "11a" above.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

No off-site sources of light or glare exist that will affect this proposal.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Not applicable, see "11a" and "11c" above.

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Wildlife viewing, hiking, and biking.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

The proposed project would not displace or negatively impact any existing recreational uses. The proposed project is anticipated to enhance existing recreational uses.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Not applicable, see "12b" .

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No places or objects listed on or proposed for the site are on national, state, or local preservation registers.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

Based on the Cultural Resources Identification Survey (see Attachment F), no landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance are known to occur on or next to the site.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Based on lack of evidence of landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance, no measures to reduce or control impacts are planned.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system.
Show on site plans, if any.
Mima Gate RD SW
- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?
Rural site, no connection to public transit exits.
- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?
Not applicable, not a construction project or one that involves parking.
- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).
Not applicable, not a project that involves road infrastructure.
- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.
Not applicable, not a project uses water, rail or air transportation.
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.
Not applicable, not a project that will involve regular human transportation transit to and from the project.
- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:
Not applicable, not a project that will generate transportation impacts.

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.
Not applicable, not a project that will generate an increased need for public services.
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.
Not applicable, see "15a".

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.
Electricity is available near, but not at the proposed project site.
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.
Not applicable, this is not a project that requires utilities infrastructure.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: 

Date Submitted: 29 July 2010